

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method for context-aware computer management comprising the steps of:
 - 2 assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;
 - 3 assigning each smart badge within a set of visible smart badges one of the
 - 4 clearance levels;
 - 5 identifying smart badges having a lowest clearance level; and
 - 6 providing access to database information having clearance levels no higher than
 - 7 the lowest clearance level.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
 - 2 updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge
 - 3 visibility status.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:
 - 2 recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart badge
 - 3 visibility status.
- 1 4. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:
 - 2 recording the smart badge visibility status of each smart badge within an activity
 - 3 log.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the providing step includes the step of:
 - 2 providing access to the database information to smart badge wearers assigned to
 - 3 the smart badges.

1 6. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:
2 preventing access to the database when the smart badge visibility status is set to
3 invisible for a predetermined timeout.

1 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
2 writing data items to the smart badges.

1 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of:
2 pre-reading the data item from the smart badge during idle periods.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of
2 defining a badge removal confidence level indicating whether each smart badge
3 has been continuously worn by corresponding assigned smart badge wearers.

1 10. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 assigning an expiration period to each of the smart badges; and
3 de-authenticating and erasing all data stored on a smart badge whose expiration
4 period has been exceeded.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the assigning each smart badge step includes the
2 step of:
3 configuring a predetermined smart badge visibility range.

1 12. A method for context-aware computer management comprising the steps of:
2 assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;
3 assigning each smart badge within a set of visible smart badges one of the
4 clearance levels;
5 identifying smart badges having a lowest clearance level;
6 providing access to database information having clearance levels no higher than
7 the lowest clearance level;
8 updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge
9 visibility status; and
10 recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart badge
11 visibility status.

1 13. A computer-usable medium embodying computer program code for context-aware
2 computer management, comprising the steps of:
3 assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;
4 assigning each smart badge within a set of visible smart badges one of the
5 clearance levels;
6 identifying smart badges having a lowest clearance level; and
7 providing access to database information having clearance levels no higher than
8 the lowest clearance level.

1 14. The computer-usable medium of claim 13 further comprising the step of:
2 updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge
3 visibility status.

1 15. The computer-usable medium of claim 14 further comprising the step of:
2 recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart badge
3 visibility status.

1 16. The computer-usable medium of claim 13 wherein the providing step includes the
2 step of:
3 providing access to the database information to smart badge wearers assigned to
4 the smart badges.

1 17. The computer-usable medium of claim 14 further comprising the step of:
2 preventing access to the database when the smart badge visibility status is set to
3 invisible for a predetermined timeout.

1 18. The computer-usable medium of claim 13 further comprising the step of
2 defining a badge removal confidence level indicating whether each smart badge
3 has been continuously worn by corresponding assigned smart badge wearers.

1 19. The computer-usable medium of claim 13 further comprising the steps of:
2 assigning an expiration period to each of the smart badges; and
3 de-authenticating and erasing all data stored on a smart badge whose expiration
4 period has been exceeded.

1 20. A system for context-aware computer management comprising:

2 means for assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;
3 means for assigning each smart badge within a set of visible smart badges one of
4 the clearance levels;
5 means for identifying smart badges having a lowest clearance level;
6 means for providing access over the computer to database information having
7 clearance levels no higher than the lowest clearance level;
8 means for updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in
9 smart badge visibility status; and
10 means for recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in
11 smart badge visibility status.

1 21. A system for context-aware computer management comprising:
2 a database, including information differentiated by a plurality of clearance levels;
3 a first beacon;
4 a set of smart badges, in visible communication with the first beacon, each badge
5 assigned one of the clearance levels;
6 a system service module, coupled to the beacon, for identifying a lowest clearance
7 level assigned to the smart badges; and
8 a software application, coupled to the service module and the database, for
9 providing access to information within the database having clearance levels no higher
10 than the lowest clearance level.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the first beacon includes:
2 a wide angle RF beacon.

1 23. The system of claim 21, further comprising:
2 a second diffuse IR beacon, coupled to the service module, limited to detecting
3 smart badges within a workroom.

1 24. The system of claim 21, wherein the smart badges include:
2 biometric sensors for detecting when a smart badge has been removed from an
3 assigned smart badge wearer.

1 25. The system of claim 21, wherein the service module defines a smart badge
2 visibility status, and recalculates the lowest clearance level in response to a change in the
3 visibility status.

1 26. The system of claim 21, wherein the application logs smart badge wearers
2 assigned to visible smart badges onto a computer.